

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 13, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 22, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Senator Poochigian

March 18, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17—Relative to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 17, as amended, Poochigian. Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 168 in and near the City of Clovis in Fresno County as the Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps Memorial Highway. The measure would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost for appropriate signs showing this designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps of the Fresno
2 County Sheriff's Department was ~~on-killed~~ *killed on* May 19,
3 2002, while in the performance of his duty to the citizens he was
4 sworn to protect; and
5 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Phelps had served with the Fresno
6 County Sheriff's Department in the early 1980's as a sheriff's
7 bailiff assigned to the Fresno County Superior Court, and, after
8 later working as a locomotive engineer with the Burlington
9 Northern Santa Fe Railway, he returned to the Fresno County
10 Sheriff's Department as a Level I Reserve Deputy Sheriff. In order

1 to spend more time with his family and to fulfill a lifelong dream,
2 Deputy Phelps was sworn in as a deputy sheriff on October 30,
3 2000, and, after completing a tour serving in the courts, Deputy
4 Sheriff Phelps was assigned to the Field Training Program where
5 he successfully completed his training; and

6 WHEREAS, During his second week of patrol, Deputy Sheriff
7 Phelps stopped a suspicious vehicle and was gunned down by the
8 driver, a 21 year old Clovis man who had been involved in a
9 shooting incident in the City of Clovis a short time before. Deputy
10 Sheriff Phelps was transported to Clovis District Hospital for
11 treatment but his wounds proved fatal. The shooter escaped with
12 Deputy Sheriff Phelps' sidearm and patrol vehicle. After a six-day
13 search and pursuit involving hundreds of officers from numerous
14 agencies, the gunman was shot and killed; and

15 WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff Phelps is survived by his loving
16 wife Dana, his daughter Nicole and son Kenny, and parents, Brice
17 and Mary Phelps of Clovis; and

18 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to memorialize Deputy Sheriff
19 Phelps' sacrifice by naming a portion of State Highway Route 168
20 in his honor, and to remember the sacrifices made by California
21 peace officers across the state who risk their lives daily to protect
22 citizens' lives; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby dedicates the
25 portion of State Highway Route 168 from the Temperance Avenue
26 interchange to Shepherd Avenue in and near the City of Clovis *in*
27 *Fresno County* to the memory of Deputy Sheriff Phelps; and be
28 it further

29 *Resolved*, That the described section of State Highway Route
30 168 shall be known as the "Deputy Sheriff Dennis E. Phelps
31 Memorial Highway"; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested to
33 determine the cost of erecting the appropriate signs, consistent
34 with the ~~signing~~ *signage* requirements for the state highway
35 system, showing these special designations, and, upon receiving
36 donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those
37 signs; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
3 author for appropriate distribution.

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